

INTRODUCTION

Section II -

Pasture and Hayland Interpretations

This subsection provides information concerning the suitability of soils for the production of pasture and hayland. This subsection may contain pasture and hayland suitability groupings, land capability and yield estimates, yield estimates for individual grasses or legumes, or other information pertaining to the production of forage.

Pasture and Hayland Suitability Groupings

Soils are placed in pasture and hayland groups according to their suitability for the production of forage. The soils in each group are enough alike to be suited to the same grasses or legumes, to have similar limitations and hazards, to require similar management, and to have similar productivity and other responses to management. Thus, the pasture and hayland suitability group is a convenient way of grouping the soils for their management. The groupings are identified and described in this subsection (to be added later).

The pasture and hayland suitability groups are listed under Section II on Table 1 in the Soils Legends Section.

Yield Estimates

The average yields per acre that can be expected of the principal pasture or hayland crops, under a high level of management, are presented in this subsection. In any given year, yields may be higher or lower than those indicated in the tables because of variations in rainfall or other climatic factors. The yields are based mainly on the experience and records of farmers, conservationists, and Extension agents. Available yield data from nearby counties and results of field trials and demonstrations are also considered.

Under good management, proper grazing is essential for the production of high quality forage, stand survival, and erosion control. Proper grazing helps plants maintain sufficient and generally vigorous top growth during the growing season. Brush control is essential in many areas, and weed control generally is needed. Rotation grazing and renovation are also important management practices.

Yield estimates are often provided in animal unit months (AUMs) or the amount of forage or feed required to feed one animal unit (one cow, one horse, one mule, five sheep, or 5 goats) for 30 days.